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ROBERT BROOKE.

(See *Inscription* QUARTERLY, IV., p. 64.)

Copy made by Miss H. R. Rooker, Charles Town, W. Va., of a letter from J. L. Chester, formerly of the College of Heraldry, London.*

"I have just had sent me a rubbing of the inscription on an old brass, still existing in the church of Whitechurch. When I first inquired there, a long time ago, I was informed that no monument to the Brookes remained. This brass has since been discovered, stowed away in the belfry, where no one thought of looking. It is one of the quaintest I ever saw, and extremely interesting. Unfortunately it does not give us the parentage of Richard Brooke, who heads your pedigree, but it does give us the precise dates of the death of himself and wife, which you can now add to the pedigree. As they lived together forty-one years, they were, of course, married about 1552 or 1553.

Since last writing I have found that this Robert Brooke, the youngest son, who erected the monument, died intestate, and letters of administration on his estate were granted 14 December, 1614. I also learn that the parsonage house, in which the Brookes lived, at Whitechurch, is *still standing*. It is an interesting fact, that during the civil wars King Charles I. passed two nights and a day in this house, the guest of the Brookes."

NOTE BY MISS H. R. ROOKER.

Copied January 9, 1894. This Richard Brooke was grandfather of the Robert Brooke, who settled in St. Mary's county, Md., in 1650, and almost certainly was progenitor of the Brookes of Virginia. The oldest branch of the Virginia family lived at "Brooke Bank," Essex county, which place has remained in their possession to this date.

CATALOGUE OF MANUSCRIPTS.

BY GEORGE F. TUDOR SHERWOOD,

50 Beecroft Road, Brockley, S. E., London, England.

Mr. Sherwood has published a very interesting partial catalogue of his very valuable collection of wills preserved in England. This catalogue is most important to those Americans in-

* Copied and communicated to the editor by Miss Kate Mason Rowland.

terested in tracing genealogies. Mr. Sherwood expects ultimately to throw his quarterly issues into one great alphabetical catalogue, worthy of a place in any library of genealogical reference. Those desiring genealogical abstracts of the documents named in the list will be supplied at a crown apiece, or at the rate of five dollars for eight. The shilling office fees would be extra. Mr. Sherwood's labors have been immense, but great results have been achieved. Upon inquiry in regard to the list of Armistead wills mentioned in Mr. Sherwood's catalogue, the editor elicited the title, date and proof of seventy Armistead wills and administrations. Among these the following might be advantageously examined with respect to the origin of the emigrant to Virginia, William Armistead, who patented land in Elizabeth City county in 1635:

Archdeaconry of Richmond, Western Deaneries (chiefly Lancashire).

1590 Armestead, John, Clapham (Lonsdale), inventory bond.

1605 Armestead, Hewghe, Fezer, for Clapham, will and inventory.

1608 Armststead, James, Wharfe, will and inventory.

1613 Armtstead, Emott, Clapham, inventory and bond.

1615 Armtstead, Richard, Clapham, will, inventory and bond.

1615 Armtstead, William, Gressingham, inventory.

1636 Armitstead, William, Clapham, inventory and bond.

1666 Armitstead, Robert, Austricke, will, inventory and bond.

1667 Armistead, Richard, Austricke, will, inventory and bond.

1667 Armistead, Hugh, Stonegrove, administration and bond.

1669 Armestead, Christofer, Newby, will, inventory and bond.

1673 Armetstead, Alice, ditching for Clapham, bond.

Prerogative Court of Chancery.

1639 Armetstead, William, Norfolk, 24 Harvey.

1652 Armstead, Thomas, Lincoln, 17 Burgess.

1654 Armestead, Richard, York, 449 Aktin.

1657 Armsteed, William, gent., Essex, 136 Ruthen.

1658 Armitstead, Roger, York, 47 Wotton.

1650 Gleadston als Armistead, Agnes als Ann York, administration, fo. 189.

Mr. Sherwood will welcome the names of those who desire to see his catalogues.